

Docket No.: 60,130-899
OOMRA0028

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appellant: Maass, et al. Group Art Unit: 3634
Serial No.: 09/672,393 Examiner: Redman, Jerry
Filed: September 28, 2000
Title: MOTOR VEHICLE DOOR

Official

REPLY BRIEF

BOX AF
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

This is in reply to the Examiner's Answer mailed December 18, 2002. The Examiner's Answer raises two arguments which require some brief response.

ARGUMENTS RELATING TO THE OPENING IN THE VEHICLE DOOR

First, beginning on page 3, the Examiner argues that Szerdahelyi discloses an access opening formed in the interior sheet of the vehicle door that is sized large enough to allow entry of a module.

Answer:

Appellant's claims require a door including a hollow interior space formed between an exterior sheeting and an interior sheet metal. Appellant's claims also require that the door includes an access opening formed between the exterior sheeting and the interior sheet metal sized large enough to allow entry of a carrier module into the hollow interior to close an opening in the interior sheet metal. Although Szerdahelyi discloses a module support 3 that closes an opening 10 in the inner door panel 1b, Szerdahelyi does not disclose any access opening that allows entry of the module support 3 in an interior space formed between the outer door panel 1a and the inner door panel 1b. The module support 3 cannot enter the interior space formed between the outer door panel 1a and the inner door panel 1b through the opening 10. If the module support 3 could enter the interior space formed by the outer door panel 1a and the inner door panel 1b through the opening 10, the module support 3 would be too small to close the opening 10. Appellant's claims are not anticipated by Szerdahelyi.

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00MRA0028**ARGUMENTS RELATING TO THE COMBINATION OF
SZERDAHELYI AND CARLO**

Finally, on page 4, the Examiner also argues it would be obvious to combine the guide rails suggested by Carlo with Szerdahelyi.

Answer:

The Examiner states that Appellant's claims do not include the limitation that the window mechanism "face away from the outer door panel and be located on the dry side." Appellant is not claiming to have this limitation in Appellant's claims. Appellant is arguing that it would not be possible to employ the window mechanism disclosed in Carlo in the vehicle door of Szerdahelyi. As the window mechanism of Carlo could not be employed in Szerdahelyi, it would not be possible to combine these references and Appellant's claims 13-22 and 24 are not obvious.

CLOSING

For the reasons set forth above, and for the reasons set forth in the main brief, the rejection must be reversed.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS

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Dated: February 17, 2003

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this Reply Brief and associated documents are being facsimile transmitted in triplicate to Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C., Art Unit 3613, After Final, (703) 872-9327 on February 17, 2003.


Tracey Belanger

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